



Township of North Brunswick
Department of Public Works
...working for you!



Special Edition

Summer 2013 Vol. 1

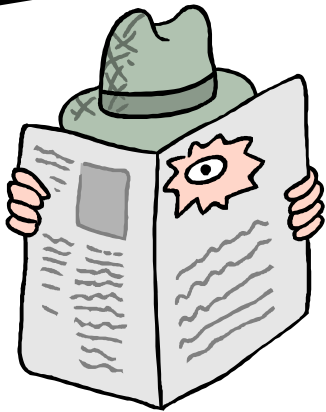
45 Quarry Lane, North Brunswick, NJ 08902

www.northbrunswicknj.gov

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The "Secrets" of DPW REVEALED



**Everything you wanted to know about DPW
....but were afraid to ask!**

How come you don't take my branches with the couch? Why can't I just put stuff out and you just come and pick it up? Why don't you pick up TV's anymore? Why do I have to recycle? Why don't you plow Livingston Avenue? Why was my trash container missed?

We know that inquiring minds want to know!

There are lots of rules about solid waste, recycling, and DPW in general and they really are based on a variety of business needs and/or other regulations that we are required to follow. What may seem arbitrary to our residents, does have a real scenario behind it. Let's start with:

How come you don't plow or repair certain streets in town?

North Brunswick is in a great spot geographically. Because of that, we have a variety of state and county roads within our borders. Those agencies are responsible for the maintenance and care of these roads.

State Roads:

US Route 1
US Route 130
Route 27
Jersey Avenue
Livingston Ave
Georges Road

County Roads:

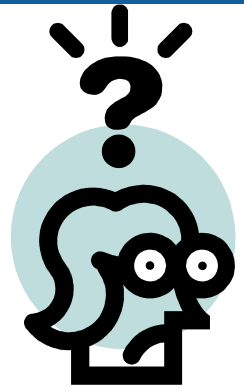
Finnegan's Lane	Church Lane
Cozzens Lane	Old Georges Road
How Lane	Milltown Road
Adams Lane	Apple Orchard Lane

**Questions? Call DPW
(732) 297-1134**

***Did you know....**
Brush is taken to a
completely separate place
than regular garbage?*

Why was everyone else's trash picked up but mine?

Most single family homes and many townhomes have their trash collected by the automated trash collection system. Your 95 gallon container is picked up by a mechanical arm attached to a trash truck. These mechanical arms are great, but they aren't able to maneuver in small spaces. The operator needs a clearance of **FOUR FEET** from any obstruction - a car, another container, fire hydrant, telephone pole, anything! The arm mechanism is not so precise that the operator can pluck a container wedged between a car and a telephone pole.



The other reason could be that the container is overloaded (the lid won't close) or has material protruding from the container (metal poles, wooden poles, etc.). If the container is overloaded with bags teetering on top, the likelihood of those bags dropping breaking and creating a messy hazard are very, very high. Metal items should never go in the regular trash, and things like wooden poles can become lodged inside the truck and contribute to equipment failure. Containers such as these will not be collected.

If you have extra bags, metal, wooden poles or anything else that doesn't fit in your container, call us for a special pick up at (732) 297-1134.



Why are there so many lists for special pick up? Isn't trash all the same?

We are so glad you asked! All trash is **NOT** the same! Some trash is actually a commodity - like **metal items**. Metal is collected separately because the Township sells it to a broker and makes a little bit of money on these items. This is why there are often "scavengers" stealing these items.

Brush and branches don't even go to the landfill. They are taken to a county facility where these items are ground up for mulch. The bundles are needed to expedite handling of these materials both at the curbside and the county facility.

Household trash, that is in your regular container, and **regular bulk** does go to the landfill, but in some cases, to separate and distinct destinations. In every case, bulk trash costs more than regular household waste, so we try to be very careful and keep them separate.

"Special" items like **motor oil**, **car tires** and **car batteries** are collected separately because they need special disposal. These items would contaminate the landfill and must be collected and disposed of in an environmentally sensitive fashion.

What's the story with TV's and computers? You used to pick them up!

It's true. There was a time when TV's and computers were just regular bulk trash. Regulations changed and they needed to be removed from the regular waste stream to make sure the hazardous materials within these items were not sent to the landfill.



TV's and computers were then put on a separate list for curbside collection. During that time, we increasingly found that the TV's and computers were being "raided" by scavengers curbside for any metal they had inside. This often meant that broken TV's and computers were what remained. DPW staff had to deal with potentially hazardous materials - both in exposed components and sharp glass. Worse yet, these broken items were presenting a potential hazard to our friends and neighbors, especially the children in your neighborhoods.

We researched how most local communities dispose of TV's and computers and found the most effective way to handle this waste was using pre-planned drop off days. We have an outside vendor that specializes in the disposal of these items that brings a container to the DPW. Residents drop off these items and we are certain that they are disposed of properly. We understand that drop off is less convenient than curbside collection, but the potential hazards of curbside collection are not justified.

One time I called and no one answered? Why is that?

Sometimes all our lines are ringing at once and we don't have enough folks to grab each line. We do our very best to get each and every call that comes in, providing person to person customer service that we value so much. On those rare occasions when all lines ring at once, please do call us back! Remember, our office hours are 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.



Why do I have to call for an appointment anyway?

The most important reason we schedule appointments is efficiency. It is significantly more efficient to have a route based list of addresses from which to operate than to drive around a particular area on a given day. We are a large town and driving around aimlessly wastes time, fuel, and puts excessive wear and tear on the equipment. With stops by appointment, we can plan the manpower and equipment usage as effectively as possible.



I have a big cardboard box. Why can't I put that in the trash?

Recycling is the law in New Jersey, it is not optional. The Township can be fined for bringing recyclable materials to the landfill. You may have to cut down the cardboard box to 3' x 3' for the recycling company, but you cannot put it in the trash. Recycling is not just the right thing to do, it saves countless dollars in landfill fees - and it's the law!



Ok, explain when I should use leaf bags. I can't seem to get this right!

Ah, leaf bags. We used to put grass clippings in them, we still put leaves in them, we picked them up during several different seasons....but now, it's really as simple as this:

LEAF BAGS ARE FOR LEAVES ONLY IN THE AUTUMN ONLY

Sounds pretty easy. But many residents wonder why this is.

Leaves in bags go to a County facility in the autumn. This facility uses our leaves, and leaves from other communities, to make leaf mulch. That leaf mulch is distributed to each contributing community. Residents may avail themselves of this mulch for free!



That is a season process. In the springtime, this facility is used for other purposes. This means we have no place to take your leaf bags for recycling. When you put your leaves out in leaf bags in the spring, they end up going to the landfill and the Township pays a premium for the disposal (leaf bags are not supposed to be in the household waste stream). You waste the bags, the Township pays more - everybody loses in this scenario. In the springtime, leaves are just yard debris, like small twigs, plant material, and small clippings. Black plastic bags should be used for this yard debris and call us for a special pick up.

In 2010, the Township stopped collecting grass clippings in the paper bags (or any other bags) curbside. We strongly encourage residents to mulch the clippings back into the lawn. Please check our website for extensive information about how to "grasscycle". If you must dispose of the grass clippings, they must be in **plastics bags in your regular trash container ONLY**. No bulk or special pick ups will be scheduled for grass clippings. If we find bags are mostly grass clippings and few other pieces of yard debris, the bag will NOT be collected as bulk curbside.



So, save your leaf bags for the fall, only put leaves in them, and we hope this solves the mystery of the leaf bags!

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook (North Brunswick Public Works) and check northbrunswicknj.gov for any trash collection changes or recycling pick up changes. You can always call us at 732-297-1134.

Check our website often for Township updates and news:
www.northbrunswicknj.gov

Additional Contacts:

Government & Municipal Complex.....	(732) 247-0922
American Water	(877) 783-5560
Waste Management (Recycling)	(800) 633-9096
Police Non-emergency	(732) 545-3200
Sewer Dept. - Business Hours.....	(732) 297-1134
Sewer or DPW Emergency - Non Business Hours	(732) 545-3200

